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tera (ants and ichneumons) and two-winged flies, a nitidulid beetle, a plant-louse, and a dragon fly.

Brain of Coryphodon. — In the last Naturalist, page 312, is an abstract sent by Professor Cope, which purports to announce important discoveries recently made by himself in regard to the brain of *Coryphodon.* Reference is made to the brain of *Dinoceras* (or *Uintatherium*), and a new classification is proposed based on these discoveries. It may interest the readers of the Naturalist to know, first, that the brain-case of *Coryphodon* was described and figured by the writer a year ago (*American Journal of Science*, vol. xi., page 426, May, 1876), and that this fact was well known to Professor Cope, although he makes no reference to it. Second, the account of the *Coryphodon* brain, given by Professor Cope, so far as it differs from my description, is not correct, and shows that he has made a most serious mistake in his observations. Third, his statements in regard to the brain of *Dinoceras* are directly refuted by a series of well-preserved specimens. Fourth, the classification based on these alleged discoveries is untenable, as the known facts are against it.

I deem it especially necessary to make these corrections, since Professor Cope has recently sent to the Naturalist several other communications quite as incorrect as the present abstract. — O. C. Marsh.

GEOGRAPHY AND EXPLORATION.

Geographical News. — Herr Barth, the German explorer, surveying possessions in Africa for the government of Portugal, committed suicide in Loando while delirious with fever. Herr Mohr, another German explorer of the expedition, searching for the sources of the Congo River, is dead.

After an absence of two years in the interior of Africa, Colonel Gordon reached Cairo on his way back to England on the 1st of last December. The task assigned him was the opening of a practicable commercial highway from that city to the Albert and Victoria lakes. Sir Samuel Baker, who preceded him, had been compelled to fight his way back from the extreme point reached in the interior of Gondokoro, and had left the newly explored country in a disturbed state. Colonel Gordon has succeeded in pacifying the hostile tribes, and has established a line of posts, fifty to one hundred miles apart, from Khartoum to Gondokoro, and thence to the Albert Lake. The communication was so far perfected that English papers were received with tolerable regularity in seven weeks from their date of publication,

Four maps of the Nile from sketch surveys of General Gordon have been published in the third number of the Bulletin of the Egyptian Geographical Society. These are reproduced on a reduced scale and on a single sheet in Markham's Geographical Magazine for March. Mr. E. G. Ravenstein announces in the same magazine that he has received from General Stone, the chief of the Egyptian staff, a map of the Nile between Dafli and the Albert Nyanza, based upon a reconnaissance made by Gordon Pasha in July, 1876. The map differs from that published previously in several respects. There is no indication now of an arm of the river flowing towards the northwest.

The Portuguese appear to exhibit an unwonted activity in connection with their African settlement. On the west coast they claim the exclusive navigation of the Congo and are charged with the design of desiring to appropriate Ambrizette, Landama, and Bandana.

At a late meeting of the Geographical Society of Paris, Mr. D. H. T. Mosse, of San Francisco, in criticising Captain Rondaire's scheme of creating an inland lake to the south of Algeria, said that the displacement of the water required to fill this lake of 6250 square miles would result in a shifting of the earth's axis! Captain Cameron gave in French at the meeting of the same society January 26th an account of his explorations. He was frequently interrupted by applause, and before separating the president announced that the gold medal of the society had been awarded to the intrepid explorer. On the 27th he was entertained at a dinner, where the bill of fare included fillet of venison *à la Kassongo*, and lobsters *à l'Africaine.*

At a recent meeting of the Geographical Society of Lyons, M. Dufonchel explained his scheme of a Saharan railway, which was to connect Algeria with Timbuktu. The Sudan had no less than fifty millions of inhabitants and a climate equal to that of Bengal or Brazil. The sands of the Sahara, it was said, would overwhelm the proposed railway, but the same thing had been said about the Suez canal, and this difficulty could be overcome by engineers. Artesian wells would furnish an ample supply of water.

At the meeting of the Geographical Society of Paris, M. Violet d'Aoust read a paper on the mountain systems of Central America and the dust whirlwinds observed by him on the plains of Mexico.

A resolution has been adopted by Congress requesting the Secretary of the Navy to transmit to the Senate the narrative of the second expedition of Captain Hall to the Arctic regions, to be compiled from notes of the expedition made by Captain Hall and purchased from his widow.

LUDLOW'S RECONNAISSANCE IN MONTANA.[1] — The route traveled by Captain Ludlow's party was an interesting one, and the account of the brief trip through the Yellowstone National Park, accompanied as it is by a map, will be valuable and authoritative to intending tourists. Mr. George B. Grinnell contributes a report on the mammals and birds, while a geological report by Edward S. Dana and Mr. Grinnell includes some account of the Little Rocky Mountains, a region lying north of the main route of the party. The description of new fossils, by R. P. Whitfield, is accompanied by two plates.

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[1] *Report of a Reconnaissance from Carroll, Montana Territory, on the Upper Missouri, to the Yellowstone National Park and Return, made in the Summer of* 1875. By WILLIAM LUDLOW, Capt. Engineers U. S. A. Washington, 1876. 4to, pp. 155. With three maps and two plates.

Recent Geographical Progress. — First and foremost we have to mention the numerous scientific congresses: the periodical sessions of the International Congress of Geographical Sciences inaugurated at Antwerp, in 1871, and continued at Paris, in 1875; the periodical sessions of the International Geodetic Association, the last session of which was held at Bruxelles, in October, 1876; the Statistical and Prehistorical Congresses at Buda-Pesth, the Congress of Orientalists at St. Petersburg, and that of Anthropologists at Jena; and, further, the creation, since 1870, of numerous geographical societies, to wit: in 1870, at Bremen; 1872, at Buda-Pesth; 1873, at Halle, Kiew, Hamburg, Bern, Amsterdam, Lyons, and Paris (Society of Commercial Geography); in 1874, at Bordeaux (Society of Commercial Geography); in 1875, at Cairo, Bukarest, and Lisbon; in 1876, at Madrid, Marseilles, at Paris (Topographical Society), at Bruxelles and at Antwerp; finally, the International Association for the purpose of suppressing the slave trade and exploring Central Africa, due to the high initiative taken by H. M. King Leopold II., and constituted at Bruxelles, September, 1876. — Bulletin No. 1, Geographical Society of Belgium.

MICROSCOPY.

Fossil Diatoms from South Australia. — Mr. Galloway C. Morris, of East Tulpehocken Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, obtained from the commissioner in charge of the South Australian exhibit at the Centennial a small supply of a most interesting diatomaceous mineral called coorongite, from the Coorong District, in South Australia, where it is found. It is a mineral of a dark-gray or ash color, a light specific gravity, and a fine spongy texture, occurring in great quantities, and consisting of about twenty per cent. of a hydrocarbon which can be separated by distillation for economical purposes as an illuminating and lubricating oil, and a residue consisting mainly of fresh-water diatoms. It burns when heated on platinum foil, is permanent in the air, and is unaffected by moisture. It is not disintegrated in ether or chloroform, though most of the oily hydrocarbon is removed. Mr. Morris has succeeded best in preparing it for the microscope by boiling it in sulphuric acid with the addition of a small quantity of bichromate of potash to make chromic acid and give off the hydrocarbon as carbonic-acid gas. He has a few slides to spare, which he is willing to exchange for other mounted specimens.

Annual Reception. — The American Microscopical Society of the city of New York held a very successful invitation exhibition at Kurtz's art gallery, Madison Square, on Tuesday evening, March 6th.

Diphtheria. — This subject has been discussed at recent meetings